

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 10, 2002

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2001–02 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2607

Introduced by Assembly Member Leach

February 21, 2002

~~An act to amend Sections 48412 and 51420 of the Education Code,~~
An act to amend Section 48412 of the Education Code, relating to pupil testing.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2607, as amended, Leach. ~~High school equivalency: highly~~
Highly gifted pupils.

Existing law authorizes any person 16 years of age or older, and who has been enrolled in or will complete 10th grade, as specified, to have his or her proficiency in basic skills taught in public high schools verified by a test administered by the State Department of Education.

This bill would, in addition, authorize highly gifted pupils to have their proficiency in basic skills verified by a test administered by the State Department of Education, as specified.

~~Existing law requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to issue a California high school equivalency certificate to any person who passes a general educational development test approved by the State Board of Education and administered by an approved testing center, is a California resident or a member of the armed services and assigned to duty in California, and is either 18 years old or would have graduated from high school if he or she had remained in school and followed the usual course of study toward graduation.~~

~~This bill would, in addition, include highly gifted pupils, as defined, to the persons who may be eligible to receive a California high school equivalency certificate.~~

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 48412 of the Education Code is
2 amended to read:

3 48412. (a) Any person 16 years of age or older, or who has
4 been enrolled in the 10th grade for one academic year or longer,
5 or who will complete one academic year of enrollment in the 10th
6 grade at the end of the semester during which the next regular
7 examination will be conducted, or who is a highly gifted pupil, as
8 defined pursuant to Section 52201, shall be permitted to have his
9 or her proficiency in basic skills taught in public high schools
10 verified according to criteria established by the State Department
11 of Education.

12 The State Board of Education shall award a “certificate of
13 proficiency” to persons who demonstrate that proficiency. The
14 certificate of proficiency shall be equivalent to a high school
15 diploma, and the State Department of Education shall keep a
16 permanent record of the issuance of all the certificates.

17 (b) The State Department of Education shall develop standards
18 of competency in basic skills taught in public high schools and
19 shall provide for the administration of examinations prepared by
20 or with the approval of the department to verify competency.
21 Regular examinations shall be held once in the fall semester and
22 once in the spring of every academic year on a date, as determined
23 by the State Department of Education, which will enable
24 notification of examinees and the schools they attend, if any, of the
25 results thereof not later than two weeks prior to the date on which
26 that semester ends in a majority of school districts which maintain
27 high schools.

28 In addition to regular examinations, the State Department of
29 Education may, at the discretion of the Superintendent of Public
30 Instruction, conduct examinations for all eligible persons once
31 during each summer recess and may conduct examinations at any
32 other time that the superintendent deems necessary to



accommodate eligible persons whose religious convictions or physical handicaps prevent their attending one of the regular examinations.

(c) The State Department of Education may charge a fee for each examination application in an amount sufficient to recover the costs of administering the requirements of this section. However, the fee shall not exceed an amount equal to the cost of test renewal and administration per examination application. All fees levied and collected pursuant to this section shall be deposited in the State Treasury for remittance to the current support appropriation of the State Department of Education as reimbursement for costs of administering this section. Any reimbursements collected in excess of actual costs of administration of this section shall be transferred to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund by order of the Director of Finance.

(d) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules and regulations as are necessary for implementation of this section.

(e) The State Department of Education shall periodically review the effectiveness of the examinations administered pursuant to this section. The costs of this review may be recovered through the fees levied pursuant to subdivision (c).

~~SEC. 2.—Section 51420 of the Education Code is amended to read:~~

~~51420.—The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall issue a California high school equivalency certificate and an official score report, or an official score report only, to any person who has not completed high school and who meets the following requirements:~~

~~(a) Is a resident of this state or is a member of the armed services assigned to duty in this state.~~

~~(b) Has taken all or a portion of a general educational development test which has been approved by the State Board of Education and which is administered by a testing center approved by the Department of Education, with a score determined by the State Board of Education to be equal to the standard of performance expected from high school graduates. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a highly gifted pupil as defined by Section 52201 may take a general education development test.~~

- 1 ~~(c) Is at least 18 years of age or would have graduated from high~~
- 2 ~~school had he or she remained in school and followed the usual~~
- 3 ~~course of study toward graduation, or is highly gifted pupil as~~
- 4 ~~defined pursuant to Section 52201.~~
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